

Application Number 10/534344
Response to the Office Action dated April 30, 2008

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to limit the catalyst to an activated palladium catalyst; accordingly, claim 2 has been canceled and claims 3 has been amended editorially; and further, claims 5 and 6 have been amended editorially.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dinh-Nguyen et al. (GB Patent No. 1,103,607). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 requires a deuteration process using an activated palladium catalyst. Dinh-Nguyen, however, discloses only an activated platinum dioxide and fails to disclose the activated palladium catalyst (see coln. 2, lines 59-66). By changing a catalyst from the activated platinum catalyst to the activated palladium catalyst, the deuteration rates of hydrogen atoms and the isolation yield are dramatically increased from 93 % of hydrogen atoms at position (1) and 67 % at position (2) to 99 % at both (1) and (2) positions, and from 95 % of the isolation yield to 99 % (see example 2 in table 1 at page 31 and example 32 at page 40 of the specification). There is no reasonable basis to expect such results from the reference. Accordingly, claim 1 is distinguished from Dinh-Nguyen, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Application Number 10/534344
Response to the Office Action dated April 30, 2008

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JUL 24 2008

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

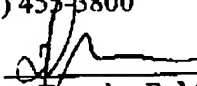


Dated: July 24, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &
LARSON, P.C.
P.O. Box 2902
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902
(612) 455-3800

By:


Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300
DPM/my/ad